Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   A method for managing knowledge, comprising:

capturing existing knowledge with user-defined templates in a predetermined format of selected information categories grouped in a plurality of workflows;

abstracting the captured knowledge using meta data;

organizing the abstracted captured knowledge into an indexed database of information including links between related information, the indexed database structured according to the abstracted captured knowledge;

acquiring new knowledge with the user-defined templates;

capturing the new knowledge in the predetermined format; and

updating the database to include the new information and links between the new information and related information.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said capturing further comprises:

identifying the most critical element of the new knowledge.

4. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 ~~wherein said existing knowledge and said captured knowledge include a plurality of workflows~~ further comprising: providing timely and relevant information to a selected user based on predefined and user-modifiable preferences.

5. (previously presented)   The method of claim 4 wherein each of said workflow includes a sequence of steps, wherein each step is linked to at least one other step in chronological or logical manner.

6. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said existing knowledge and said new knowledge are presented in a hierarchical tree.

7. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said existing knowledge and said new knowledge include a plurality of human-based processes.

8. (previously presented)   The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of human-based processes include business and management processes.

9. (previously presented)   The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of human-based processes include engineering processes.

10. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        remotely accessing said indexed database via a network of computers.

11. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        applying the knowledge to a task; and
        tracking progress on said task.

12. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        annotating the new knowledge.

13. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        setting up a plurality of criteria associated with the new knowledge, said plurality of criteria modifying said links between the new information and related information based in said plurality of criteria.

14. (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said indexed database includes fields defined by the captured knowledge and the new knowledge.

15. (currently amended)   A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for managing knowledge, the method including:

capturing existing knowledge <u>with user-defined templates</u> in a predetermined format of selected information categories defined by said existing knowledge;

<u>abstracting the captured knowledge using meta data;</u>

organizing the <u>abstracted</u> captured knowledge into an indexed database of information including links between related information<u>, the indexed database structured according to the abstracted captured knowledge</u>;

acquiring new knowledge <u>with the user-defined templates</u>;

capturing the new knowledge in the predetermined format; and

updating the database to include the new information and links between the new information and related information[[,]]

~~wherein said indexed database includes fields defined by the captured knowledge and the new knowledge~~.

16. (new)   A knowledge management system comprising:

a user-defined template for capturing knowledge;

a presentation layer interfacing with said user-defined template;

a business layer coupled to said presentation layer;

a data abstraction layer coupled to said business layer for abstracting the captured knowledge; and

a database coupled to said data abstraction layer for storing the abstracted captured knowledge using meta data associated with the captured knowledge.

17. (new)   The system of claim 16 wherein the meta data includes:

a set of blueprints; and

a set of user modifications.

18. (new)   The system of claim 17 wherein:

the set of blueprints further comprises display, properties, search, and behavior; and

the set of user modifications further comprises data, relationships, rules, and access.

19. (new)   The system of claim 16 wherein said business layer further comprises knowledge management, project management, business process management, document management, web analytics, and portal management.

20. (new)   The system of claim 16 wherein said data abstraction layer modifies in real-time the data structure of said database based on a change in said user-defined template.